



Rare Animals of Louisiana



Mississippi Pigtoe

Pleurobema beadleianum

Rarity Rank: S2/G3

Identification:

- Inflated with an almost triangular or rhomboid shape.
- Solid shell with a rich reddish brown color.
- Shell interior is whitish, purple tinted, or salmon.



Taxonomic comments: A larger and thicker form of this mussel occurs in the Amite and Pearl Rivers and may be eventually be considered a new species.

Habitat: Eastern Gulf drainages in Louisiana and Mississippi, also occurs in Lake Pontchartrain.

Food habits:

- Mussels are filter feeders that continuously pump water through their siphons.
- Their diet is composed of the plankton and detritus that they are able to extract during this process.

Reproduction:

- Most freshwater mussels have a parasitic stage in which the glochidia (larvae) attach to the gills or fins of certain types of fish.
- The host fish for this species is unknown.

Threats:

- Loss of habitat as a result of siltation, and impoundments.
- The addition of pollutants to streams and rivers may also contribute to the decline of this species.

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent erosion and siltation
- Follow Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones, possibly increasing width.
- Prevent vehicular traffic across streams

U. S. Range: LA, MS





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References:

- NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2006. Version 6.1 . Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: Jan. 18, 2007).
- Vidrine, M.F. 1993. The historical distributions of freshwater mussels in Louisiana. Gail Q. Vidrine Collectables, Eunice, Louisiana.